

## The Signal experience

CPT Melany Paul  
Reserve Officers' Training Corps  
University of Nevada at Reno  
Bachelor of arts in speech communications and  
criminal justice

Officer in charge, 7<sup>th</sup> Signal Brigade  
Operation Joint Guard  
Sarajevo, Bosnia

"As a fairly new first lieutenant, I deployed to Sarajevo as the officer-in-charge for 7<sup>th</sup> Signal Brigade. I was responsible for all 7<sup>th</sup> Signal Brigade soldiers and equipment within Bosnia, including sites in Mostar and Banja Luca. This position allowed me to work side-by-side with more than a dozen NATO nations while providing communications to the Stabilization Forces commander.

"As a first lieutenant I was working directly with senior-grade officers, who trusted my judgment and knowledge of the equipment and of my soldiers. I often needed to use ingenuity to overcome technical and personnel issues, since I was the senior leadership on the ground. I was able to have my own leadership style. I had a lot of responsibility but a lot of authority.

"We developed an alternative communications system that allowed for redeployment of three terminals and several switches. It was exciting to see my hard work and planning make a real difference in the overall mission and the lives of my soldiers. We covered a lot of area with our communications in Bosnia and had to maximize the use of technology.



Signal soldiers' greatest achievement in Bosnia has been maintaining reliable, quality communications through personnel and equipment changeovers, bad weather and political turmoil. Here 7th Signal Brigade soldiers check their connections in a shelter during Operation Joint Guard.

"This was an experience I'll never forget - being able to make a difference for the people of Bosnia; working with other nations and their communications systems; working side by side with the senior leadership; and seeing the results of my decisions making differences in my soldiers' lives.

"There are great reasons to join the Signal Corps. Everyone needs Signal officers - it's one branch that's vital to the warfighter. Wars are lost if there are no communications. Also, there's the chance for a person to gain new skills and live in new cultures."

CPT David Scott  
U.S. Military Academy, West Point, N.Y.  
Bachelor of science in management

Signal officer  
Operation Joint Guard  
Macedonia

"There is a lot of responsibility for a lot of equipment and soldiers early on as a Signal officer. Signal also offers more technical training than combat arms and requires leadership, too.

"In Macedonia I planned communications support for 15<sup>th</sup> Military Intelligence Battalion's unmanned-aerial-vehicle mission. I coordinated with the Signal officer on the ground for secure computer-alert and electronic-mail accounts. I also established tactical phones throughout my area and maintained constant communications support. Other things I did as a Signal officer were to request frequencies, maintain STU IIIs



Signaleers supported military intelligence's unmanned aerial vehicles with communications in Macedonia.

(secure phones), publish the Signal annex and a phone list, configure computers and try to coordinate on videoteleconferencing."